

SHEILA S. MULVEY

4 STONY CREEK ROAD, PLANTSVILLE, CT 06479

T-860-628-0277 FAX 860-628-0633

Testimony regarding 2014-2015 Budget of The Department of Developmental Services

Friday, February 15, 2013

Good Evening Senator Harp, Representative Walker and member of the Appropriations Committee and Sub Committee for Health and Hospitals.

I am Sheila Mulvey a family member and resident of Southington.

I would like to address two line items in the budget.

Firstly, Rent Subsidy. Persons receiving rent subsidy have never received a cost of living increase since that program was established. When they receive a cola from social security the rent subsidy formula decreases their subsidy. Therefore, they never benefit from the SS cola. This been a complicated issue. We need the rent subsidy program in its' entirety and I am concerned about any fund decrease in this item that will have an impact on persons at very low income levels and many in poverty.

Secondly, Temporary Supports. Temporary Support is a lifeline for people. It should be and is used in times of crisis in a persons' life situation caused by illness whether it be physical, mental or emotional or in unforeseen service delivery changes or due to natural crises as we have experienced in New England. These dollars are used to stabilize the health and safety of people until situations are corrected. DDS is very judicious in approving temporary support monies. They keep a tight ship always striving to balance their spending with cost saving while ever mindful of the person or persons behind a request for this support. Please do not decrease any funds in this line item.

As a family member and someone who has been advocating for many decades, I am very grateful to this body for working hard to meet the states' "moral and ethical obligation" to this vulnerable and determined population. I thank you for supporting DDS and helping them carryout their mission.

Sheila S. Mulvey